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Wanted: Virtual HitchHikers for Single Mom Solo Westward Ho! Road Trip

Part 1

By **Christine Tetreault**

Almost every friend I've told about this adventure has tried to talk me out of it. I get their apprehension. I do. Divorced, almost fifty-year-old Moms don't usually go for the road trip thing. But this latest spontaneous life event isn't some dreamed-up overnight lunacy of mine. Really.

My brave and beautiful daughter, Glenna, is in need of a car, as she steps down from residential care to day treatment . That means a car needs to get from Boston to [St. Louis](#). Yup. Missouri. MO. Home of the big arch, Mark Twain, and the mighty (but very dirty) Mississippi.

Aha! For me, the lure of escape and adventure beckons! I will turn this 20-hour trip-tik into a go-for-the-gusto in life female healing journey.

The friends, however, (except for virtual travel tzar and pal Rob) won't stop nagging: Buy her a used car in St. Louis. Ship your car by train. Hire someone ELSE to drive the car. Invite a friend and drive non-stop; Just get it over with and get back home. Rent her a car (no can do, for under 21 drivers in most US states, folks).

Whine, whine, whine.

Hello??!! This is your chameleon friend, ole' give it a try, change her life with the breeze Christine here!

In the past three years, I have worked hard to replace the so-so, crisis, and hurry-up approach to life with an in-the-moment, make every day a 'wow' life philosophy whenever possible. Two divorces, two years of counseling grad school, and too many PTSD flashbacks for Glenna have set aglow in me the smell-the-roses while you can, take-the-risk spirit.

Now for your role, dear readers and writers, should you choose to accept it.

You are most cordially and ardently invited to join me - virtually, by keyboard -- in this spirited summer escape. A brief outline of my proposed itinerary follows here, including map route, road music, must-sees, and maybe-if's.

I will throw in extra socks and a backup toothbrush in case of dire rainfall, tornadoes, auto complaints, twisted ankles, or bedbugs. I've promised not to drive at night and to adhere to my female travel wisdom (separate article to come on that. Input welcome, of course!).

YOU are encouraged to share creative suggestions, artistic influences, travel expertise, and imaginative pleasures. Comment often! Comment long! Take the back seat or front. Be ready to practice map reading (and folding) skills. Pack lightly. (Shoe queens need not apply). Come with car games! Be prepared to sing. Harmony and dashboard drumming welcome.

Some behind the scene guidelines:

This is somewhat of a budget trip, though not hostel budget.

As a NH mountain girl born and raised, I need scenery and active, outdoor excursions. I am not a vegetarian.

I drive a Honda Accord, with sunroof. I wear sunblock but crave sunshine. You may hang your feet out the window (even if I can't).

I like my road music loud! I sometimes go over the speed limit. I do not smoke.

I hate country music. I will not stop for Sunday mass.

I am not afraid to pass trucks.

The Road Trip!!!! Destination --- Music Selection --- Hightlight

Boston - Berkshires --- Aerosmith and James Taylor --- Hike Mt. Greylock

MA Berkshires to Cooperstown, NY --- U2, the radio --- Baseball Hall of Fame

Takeaways

➤ Divorced, almost fifty-year-old Moms don't usually go for the road trip thing.

➤ A car needs to get from Boston to St. Louis, home of the Arch and the very dirty Mississippi.

➤ I will turn this 20-hour trip-tik into a go-for-the-gusto female healing journey.

Cooperstown to Finger Lakes --- Mark Cohn, Sting --- Lakes, wineries, waterfalls!

Watkins Glen to Corning, NY --- Indigo Girls --- Corning Museum of Glass

NY to Cleveland --- Bon Jovi --- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!!!!

Cleveland to Chicago --- Sheryl Crow and The Doors --- Millennium Park, Navy Pier.

Chicago to Indianapolis --- Bob Seeger, the radio --- Indy 500 Speedway (worth it for just a looksie?)

Hannibal, MO --- Huck Finn on CD -- Mark Twain home (detour needed)

St. Louis --- Glenna reunion!

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